

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 BIB-01 ACDA-07 MCE-00 ERDA-05
ERDE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W
-----044523 042201Z /63

P R 040804Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2917
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC
DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14466

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH UR JA
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRC ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES AND COMMENTARY

REF: MOSCOW 13173

SUMMARY: SOVIT PRC ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES AND COMMENTARY
ARE MILD IN CRITICISM OF PRC COMPARED TO HARSH SOVIET
ATTACKS ON PRC ROLLOWING XI PARTY CONGRESS. SOVIET
CHINA SPECIALIST STATES THAT RELATIVE RESTRAINED NATURE OF
MESSAGE REFLECTS MOSCOW'S OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING
"ATMOSPHERICS" IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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EPARTMENT WILL ALREADY HAVE NOTED TASS ITEMS
COVERING ANNIVER ARY TELEGRAMS WHICH SUPREME SOVIET
PRESIDIUM/COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SENT TO PRC AS WELL AS
ABBREVIATED VERSION OF OCTOBER 1 ALEXANDROV
ARTICLE"TWENTY EIGHT YEARS OF PRC". OCTOBER
1 IZVESTIYA ALSO CARRIES LONG COMMENTARY ON
OCCASION PRC ANNIVERSARY ENTITLED "ANNIVERSARY

OF THE REPUBLIC" BY IZVESTIYA PRC COMME

TATOR

SHTYKHANOV. SHTYKHANOV ARTICLE, THOUGH SOMEWHAT MORE CRITICAL OF PRC, GENERALLY FOLLOWS TONE AND CONTENT OF MORE AUTHORITATIVE ALEXANDROV PIECE.

2. PERHAPS DUE TO NATURE OF THE OCCASION AS WELL AS A SOVIET DESIRE TO REGISTER MOSCOW'S "REASONABLENESS" IN SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE ON EVE OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION CELEBRATIONS, ALEXANDROV AND SHTYKHANOV ARTICLES AND TELEGRAM MENTIONED ABOVE DWELL AT SOME LENGTH ON HEYDAY OF SINO-SOVIET COOPERATION IN THE PAST AND REFERENCES TO STATEMENTS BY LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES ON WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT TONE OF ALEXANDROV ARTICLE (PSEUDONYM OF ALEXANDROV IMPLIES IMPRIMATUR OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE) IS CLOSER TO THE OCTOBER 1, 1976 ALEXANDROV ARTICLE PUBLISHED DURING THE SOVIET EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MAO'S DEATH THAN TO MAY 14, 1977 ALEXANDROV PIECE AND THE AUGUST 1977 KOMMUNIST ARTICLE (REFTEL).

3. FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THIS YEAR'S ALEXANDROV "ANNIVERSARY" ARTICLE ARE NOTWORTHY:
--WHILE CRITICISING POLICY OF HEGEMONISM AND GREAT POWER CHAUVINISM OF PRESENT PEKING LEADER-
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SHIP AND MAKING NO REFERENCE TO IMPROVING PARTY TO PARTY TIES, IT BRIEFLY QUOTES BOTH HAO KUO-FENG AT XI PARTY CONGRESS AND BREZHNEV AT 25TH CPSU CONGRESS ON THE WILLINGNESS OF EACH SIDE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS;
--IT REFRAINS FROM CRITICISING PEKING LEADERS BY NAME OR "MAOISM" AS A PHILOSOPHY;
--IT NOTES THE BENEFITS FOR BOTH SIDES ACHIEVED BY THE RECENT AGREEMENTS ON TRADE AND NAVIGATION;
--IT REITERATES STANDARD SOVIET STATEMENT THAT THERE EXIST "NO ISSUES IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE PRC THAT COULD NOT BE SETTLED IN A GOOD NEIGHBORLY WAY".

3. THE PRESIDIO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TELEGRAM REPEATS REFERENCES IN 1976 TELEGRAM TO PAST SINO-SOVIET COOPERATION BUT ADDS THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND STATES "THE READINESS OF THE SOVIET SIDE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS." BOTH POINTS WERE MISSING IN LAST YEAR'S

MESSAGE.

4. DESPITE RELATIVELY RESTRAINED TONE OF SOVIET ANNIVERSARY
COMMENTARY AS COMPARED TO MORE RECENT, HARSH
ATTACKS ON PRC, OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION
IS THAT SOVIETS ARE MAINLY INTERESTED IN FURTHER
DOCUM
TING THEMSELVES AS THE AGGRIEVED PARTY
IN SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE, WHILE UNDERSCORING SOVIET UNION'S
WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BUT ONLY ON ITS
OWN TERMS AND WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT PRELIMINARY
CONCESSIONS. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON ALEXA
DROV
PIECE, SOVIET ASIAN SPECIALIST V. YAKOBOVSKY (IMMO)
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TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 2 THAT SOVIET ANNIVERSARY
MESSAGES REFLECT SOVIET OBJECTIVE TO IMPROVE THE
"ATMOSPHERICS" IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS AS A FIRST
STEP. HE NOTED THE RECENT ARRIVAL OF A PRC
AMBASSADOR OF "HIGH STANDING",
THE TRADE AND
NAVIGATIONS AGREEMENTS AND INCREASED NUMBER
OF SOVIETS INVITED TO THE OCTOBER 1 RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE
CHINESE EMBASSY (NOTE: THOUGH SOVIET REPRESENTATION LEVEL (I'ICHEV)
REMAINED SAME) WHILE STRESSING THAT THE USSR WILL
CONTINUE TO COUNTER-ATTACK CHINA'S PROPAGANDA, HE
REMARKED THAT MOSCOW WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO REMAIN
PATIENT IN ENCOURAGING PEKING TO RESPOND TO SOVIET
"INITIATIVES" TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW14466
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770362-0227
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771095/aaaaddef.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ac046f37-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 13173
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1039874
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRC ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES AND COMMENTARY
TAGS: SOPN, CH, UR, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ac046f37-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009